

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 are presented below, with claims 1 and 3-18 pending. As shown below, claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 13, and 14 have been amended, claim 2 has been canceled, and new claims 18-19 have been added.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a controller module including:

a backplane,

a data port, coupled to said backplane, configured to receive an input/output module, and

a processor, coupled to said backplane, configured to control the input/output module connected said data port; and

an interface module removably coupled to said controller module and including:

a network interface configured to receive an input formatted in eXtensible Markup Language from a remote computer;

a parser, coupled to the network interface, configured to parse the input, configured to determine a control action encoded within the input, and

a real-time operating system for controlling the operation of said interface module.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the control action specifies the address of the input/output module.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising:

an input analyzer, coupled to the parser, configured to map the control action to the input/output module.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising:

a control manager, coupled to the input analyzer, configured to initiate the control action with the input/output module.

6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an eXtensible Markup Language input containing an action relevant to a control function;

executing the action relevant to the control function within a real-time operating system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

parsing the eXtensible Markup Language input to determine the action relevant to the control function.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the eXtensible Markup Language input is received from a remote computer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

mapping the action relevant to the control function to an address of an input/output module.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with data and instructions, the data and instructions causing an apparatus executing the instructions to:

receive an eXtensible Markup Language input containing an action relevant to a control function;

execute the action relevant to the control function within a real-time operating system.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 further encoded with data and instructions, ~~further comprising~~ causing the apparatus executing the instructions to:

~~parsing~~ parse the eXtensible Markup Language input to determine the action relevant to the control function.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the eXtensible Markup Language input is received from a remote computer.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 further encoded with data and instructions, ~~further comprising, further comprising~~ causing the apparatus executing the instructions to:

~~means for mapping~~ map the action relevant to the control function to an address of an input/output module.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving an eXtensible Markup Language input containing an action relevant
to a control function;

means for executing the action relevant to the control function within a real-time
operating system.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

means for parsing the eXtensible Markup Language input to determine the action relevant
to the control function.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the eXtensible Markup Language input is
received from a remote computer.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

means for mapping the action relevant to the control function to an address of an
input/output module.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a chassis configured to receive said controller module and said interface module;
wherein said controller module is coupled to said chassis and said interface module is
coupled to said chassis.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

said interface module is coupled to said processor.